THE CHURCH OF SAINT ALBAN

Established 1859

Roxborough's "Little Church Around the Corner"

Reverend Robert H. Stetler, Rector

ANNUAL REPORT

To the Members of the Parish

ANNUAL MEETING

Easter Monday, April 7, 1947.

Summary of Parochial Report To the Diocese of Pennsylvania

Report of The Rector and Annual Message

The year 1946 was the eighty-seventh year of the life of The Church of Saint Alban, Roxborough, and the second year of the tenure of the present Rector. The year was marked by noticeable progress in the three significant spheres of our parish life, i.e., numerically, financially, and spiritually. As a church, it is important to place greatest emphasis on the latter, and not be misled by figures denoting membership, attendance, or material well-being. Our major concern is souls - awakening and maintaining an awareness of God, and dependence upon God; enabling every soul to grow in the likeness of Christ by a constant utilization of God's grace and obedience to God's laws. All activities of the parish begin and end at the altar of the church, and are intended as means for furthering our Lord's Kingdom. We are responsible for promoting "our Father's buiness", i.e., the salvation of souls. When every parishioner realizes his or her part in this world-wide task, improvement will be noted in every phase of our Christian life. This church is dedicated to carry on the work that our Lord began; it is imperative that we keep this obligation in our mind and on our hearts, so that every effort will be expended to realize more and more the vision of Christ and the whole company of His faithful disciples. It is this vision of Salvation by God's grace that motivates our prayers, our labors, and our contributions. The more we pray (singly and together), the more we work (individually and in groups), the more we give (envelopes, pence boxes, etc.), the sooner the vision will become a reality and the more we will merit the commendation of our Savior and Judge.

Ultimate responsibility for the life and work of this parish rests upon the Rector and Vestry. The Rector directs those things which affect the spirituality of the church (Services, instructions, general program); the Vestry directs those things which affect the temporality of the church (finances, care of property, legal affairs, building program, etc.). Neither the Rector nor the Vestry could accomplish very much without the devoted and interested cooperation and support of all of our members. In the final analysis, every man, woman and child helps or hinders the work of this church, intentionally or otherwise. Absenteeism, selfishness, aloofness and indifference are active deterrants to the accomplishing of our task; regularity, generosity, fellowship and concern are favorable influences affecting our task. Apparently one of our greatest needs of the moment is a willingness to serve, an initiative to undertake, an energy to carry on which would be ever-present, and spontaneously aroused. Too much reliance is placed upon the Rector to initiate and maintain certain activities, If a job needs to be done, the laity are free to plan and see it through to a successful conclusion. Lay leadership among men and women assures us of a church that is alive to every opportunity. This church belongs to you; you alone control the future destiny of this parish.

The Annual Report submitted to the Diocese of Pennsylvania discloses the following highlights for 1946:

Baptisms	15 (children 14, adults 1)
Confirmations	8 (male 5, female 3)
Marriages	5
Burials	13 (5 communicants)
Communicants	212 (6 received by transfer)

Services (not Holy Communion)	50
Holy Communion (public)	91
Holy Communion (private)	20

The Rector's diary reveals these facts:

Regular Parish Calls	431
Parish Sick Calls	122
Other Calls (parish business)	141 (and 75 Wattis)
Meetings attended	235
Classes & Instructions	66

Correspondence, preparation and study consumed a further portion of the Rector's time. Failure to call in sickness, etc., is only attributable to negligence of parishioners in notifying the Rector. As your spiritual physician, your Rector is available 24 hours a day; he is always as near as your nearest telephone (Roxborough 8-2627). Believing that the influence of this parish is strengthened and extended by participation in extra-parochial affairs, I am at present Vice-President of the 21st Ward Clergy Club, Vice-President of the 21st Ward Community Council, and Chief Chaplain at Roxborough Memorial Hospital.

The year 1946 was one of great activity and we earnestly believe that the parish has made progress. The current times and our favorable location put before us many challenges for future consideration. We have made a good beginning, but we have only scratched the surface. Alertness, tireless effort, and confidence in final achievement will enable this parish to become one of the outstanding churches of our community and diocese. Let us build upon the faithfulness of others; let us justify our own relationship to Christ. May God bless abundantly every work of The Church of Saint Alban, Roxborough's "Little Church Around the Corner".

Rector's Discretionary Fund

Established by authority of the 1946 Annual Meeting, this Fund is derived primarily from the loose offerings at the Communion Services on Sunday at 8 a.m. It is administered for charitable purposes, and such special objects as the Rector may designate.

Income, April to December	$ 46.85
Disbursements	40.32
Balance, January 1, 1947	$ 6.53

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Organization Reports

The Vestry

The temporal affairs of the church have been carefully attended to, and satisfactorily dispensed. Some of the more noteworthy are:

1. Promotion of a successful campaign for the Reconstruction and Advance Fund - $250.00.
2. Oversubscription of our Missionary Pledge of $400.00 by the amount of $97.23.
3. Addition of the salary of a choir director.
4. Establishment of Rector's Discretionary Fund.
5. Withdrawal of Pence Boxes from supplementary current income.

Your present vestry, as of Januaryl, 1947, includes:

Mr. William P. Eccles, Senior Warden
Mr. Alfred R. Bechtel, Accounting Warden
X Mr. Robert E. Schultz, Secretary
Mr. Robert Flanders, Chairman of Finance Committee
Mr. Alvion P. Mosier, Chairman of Property Committee
Mr. Howard Goodman
Mr. Charles F. Rutherford
Mr. Reginald R. Hayes
Mr. Haas
Mr. Renshaw

Report of the Accounting Warden for 1946

Receipts:		
For local support	$ 5,522.02	
Special Parochial Purposes	434.62	
Work Outside the Parish	751.31	
Special Gifts & Offerings	4,424.95	$ 11,132.90
Balance, January 1, 1946		698.43
Total Income		$ 11,831.33
Disbursements:		
Current Parish Expenses	$ 4,698.56	
Clergy Pension Premium	210.00	
Diocesan Assessment	114.42	
Special Parish Expenses	918.54	
Work Outside the Parish	651.06	
Purchase of new Investments	4,407.14	$ 10,999.72
Balance, December 31, 1946		831.61
		$ 11,831.33

The Church School

Religious education is as essential to a parish as evangelism or social activity, and the imparting of such knowledge should be involved in the work among adults as well as children. It is a mistake to think that any one ever graduates from church training, for it extends from the cradle to the grave. The Church School, as such, is one of the most necessary parish organizations; upon its growth and development depends the future strength and vitality of our parish. Saint Alban's Church School has experienced a favorable record for 1946, and the future is very encouraging.

The present staff of the Church School includes:

General Superintendent		Mr. Alfred W. Mays
Supt., Beginners & Primary Dept.		Mrs. Ellwood Irwin
Teacher of Beginner's Class		Mrs. Leroy Anderson
Teacher of Primary Class		Mrs. August Goldbeck
Upper School: -	Boys	Mr. Irwin Engle
	Boys	Miss Florence Deaves
	Girls	Miss Helen Deaves
	Girls	Mrs. Irwin Engle
	Girls	Mrs. I. Wesley Manley, Jr.
Bible Class Teacher		The Rector
General Secretary		Mrs. Alvion P. Mosier
Font Roll Chairman		Jane Mosier
Treasurer		Mrs. Alfred W. Mays

As of January 1, 1947, the Secretary reports:

On Roll - Beginners and Primary	3	Teachers
	28	Children
Upper School	6	Teachers
	32	Children
	3	Officers
Total Enrollment	72	

The Font Roll includes all children, ages 0 to 3, who are baptized but not yet attending the Church School. Present registration is 47, a gain of 14 during the year.

The Treasurer of the Church School reports:

Income:		Disbursements:	
Collections and Donations	$240.41	Supplies	$ 79.91
Recons. & Advance Fund	21.10	Creche & Figures	30.50
Lenten Mite Box Offering	106.32	Recons. & Advance Fund	21.10
4th of July Picnic Fund	14.65	Lenten Offering	106.32
Interest from Bond	45.00	4th of July Picnic	14.65
	$427.48	Building Fund Contribution	25.00
		Shades for Parish House	11.35
		Birthday Thank Offering	5.00
		Hallowe'en Party	11.35
		Christmas Gifts & Party	43.06
			$348.22

Balance on Hand, January 1, 1947 - $79.26

The Lenten Offering advanced $23.19 over the 1945 total; a goodly representation attended the Diocesan Presentation Service at the Episcopal Academy. Our 1947 Lenten Offering goal is $150.00.

The Fourth of July celebration was a success in every way, all expenses paid and a final balance of $4.84. Mrs. Alice Maguire succeeded Mrs. Viola James as chairman of the Fund, and all other arrangements were capably taken care of.

In August, the second annual outing of the Church School was held at Riverview Beach. In November, classes participated in the annual bazaar and assisted at the supper.

The Birthday Offerings were allocated to Alaska. Locally, the School provided the beautiful Christmas Creche, and added a few "bricks" to our proposed parish house addition.

There were no candidates from the school for Confirmation.

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The Altar Guild
Mrs. Ralph R. Moyer, President

The care of the sanctuary of the church, the choir and altar boys' vestments, arrangements for all services, and provision of flowers, candles and bread and wine are the special responsibility of the Altar Guild. Members are on duty every week, and are available for special services. A Junior Altar Guild is contemplated for the training of "understudies" to relieve and assist the regular members. Memorial flowers are distributed to the sick, shut-in and bereaved after services.

Open dates for which Memorial flowers may be given are: June 29, July 6 and and 27, August 3, 10, 24, 31; November 30; December 21. Dates may be reserved with Miss Moyer, Flower Chairman. Mrs. Rutherford reports that the candles for the month of July are not provided.

Mrs. Ruth H. Bechtel, Treasurer, reports:

Income:		Disbursements:	
Balance, January 1, 1946	$192.62	Diocesan Altar Guild Dues	$ 2.00
Dues Collected	20.50	Altar Flowers	95.00
Flower Memorials	85.00	Altar Candles	6.70
Candle Memorials	25.50	Palms	2.14
Sale of Church Post Cards	2.05	Altar Bread	8.80
Sale of Church Calendars	24.00	Altar Wine	12.00
Tuesday Lenten & Good Friday Offerings	15.48	50 Calendars	13.30
Donations	4.50	Care of Choir Vestments	4.75
Bank Settlement, Choir Fund	4.14	Supplies	3.00
	$373.79	4 Choir Cottas	14.00
		Church Endowment Fund	13.00
		Church Building Fund	23.00
		Bank Balance, 12/31/46	172.60
			$373.79

The Sewing Guild
Mrs. Viola James, President

Weekly meetings on Tuesdays from October to May inclusive, provide activity for a group of 22 women whose ability to sew provides an enjoyable and profitable opportunity for rendering worthy service to the church. Luncheon at noon is the occasion for rest and sociability, as well as refreshment. Persons interested in sewing, quilting or knitting are invited to attend.

Mrs. Ralph Moyer, Treasurer, reports:

Income:		Disbursements:	
Sale of 326 garments	$502.35	Materials purchased	$ 437.80
Sale of surplus material	39.30	Diocesan Assessment	114.41
Fees for making garments	13.50	Woman's Aux., Dioc. of Pa.	7.00
Luncheon profit	37.00	Recons. & Advance Fund	10.00
	$592.15	Woman's Auxiliary Pledge	10.00
		Red Cross	5.00
		Episcopal Hospital	5.00
		Needlework Guild	5.00
		Diocesan Garden Party	3.75
		Shades for Rectory	31.85
		Oilcloth for Kitchen, Parish House	1.90
		Janitor for Christmas	5.00
		Sugar Purchase	2.00
			$638.71

After a $300 special contribution, balance from Savings Fund made possible the purchase of $1000.00 Government Bond. Present Saving Fund balance, $298.46. The apparent deficit in statement above is offset by approximately $100.00 worth of material on hand.

Flower Fund provided two memorials in church, and gifts to members and friends in sickness. Flower Fund balance, $2.99.

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The Wattis Group

	Monthly Prizes	Annual
1939	.....	$ 15.00
1940	.....	25.00
1941	.....	50.00
1942	.....	80.00
1943	$ 35.00	200.00
1944	90.00	400.00
1945	100.00	500.00
1946	165.00	900.00
1947	175.00	? ? ?
	$ 565.00	$2170.00

The ascending scale of both columns indicates that the Wattis Group, under the direction of Mrs. Ruth H. Bechtel and Mrs. Beatrice Rutherford were seizing every opportunity to keep St. Alban's in the lead of each year's Wattis Contest. A very successful Rummage Sale in the spring of 1946 enabled the group to begin the current contest with $271.67. Two card parties increased the fund $37.50. Monthly prizes have added $175.00. This total sum of $484.17 is now invested in grocery products, purchased to offset delinquencies in label returns. These products are "For Sale", and must be disposed of at once.

A special storage space for labels and groceries has been erected in the basement, and suitable heating is now being considered. The group meets every Thursday to cut and count labels; every parishioner is requested to save labels and box tops for this purpose.

The $900 prize received in 1946 was divided as follows:

Current expenses of the parish	$500.00
Building Fund	400.00
	$900.00

Watch for announcement of our 1947 Grand Prize.

By contributions of money, and by the proceeds from various projects, donations of products were sent to:

The Episcopal House of Rest
The Roxborough Memorial Hospital
The Roxborough (Gorgas) Home
Philadelphia General Hospital

Begin to save your labels now for the next Wattis Contest; lists available at any time.

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The Junior Women's Guild
Miss Grace Schock, President.

May 20th, 1946, The Business and Professional Women and the St. Martha's Guild were merged, and meetings scheduled for alternate Monday evenings. During the summer, meetings are held in members' homes, and during the winter in the Parish House. Noticeable increase is noted from month to month in membership and average attendance. A very successful card party in October provided a fund for purchase of dishes and table linens. Provision of such necessary equipment is one of our local projects. The Children's Table at the Bazaar, and the luncheons each evening were our contribution. In December, the 30 residents of The House of Rest received gifts made by our members at a Christmas Party provided by our group. These same ladies are to be remembered on birthdays and at Easter. Any woman of the parish desirous of sharing in our fellowship and activities are cordially invited to come to our Monday evening meetings.

Miss Florence Deaves, Treasurer, reports:

Received from dues and card party		$127.08
Dishes for Kitchen	$21.63	
Other Expenses	26.10	
		47.73
	Balance on hand	$ 80.35

St. Alban's Men's Club
Mr. George Dunlap, President.

With fluctuating success, the men of the parish have endeavored to organize a Men's Club for fellowship, recreation and service to the church. It is hoped that greater response will be forthcoming in order that a suitable program can be developed. Every man is invited to come to the parish house on alternate Monday evenings. An advertising plan for the raising of $100.00 and the procuring of 24 card tables in addition, was recently completed. Further plans await the manifestation and response of more men, especially returned servicemen.

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The Choir
Mr. Gustav Rosser, Director
Mrs. Alfred R. Bechtel, Organist

A decidedly forward-looking step was made when Mr. Rosser was procured to relieve Mrs. Bechtel of directing the singing of the choir. Noticeable improvement has been noted in the music at the services, and greater interest has been expressed by many members of the choir. It is obvious that the lack of material presents a serious handicap to fulfilling future plans. We need more singers, both men and women. The rendering of such service to the church is of benefit to the entire congregation. Church music contributes a great deal in every service of worship; we earnestly hope to develop and maintain the highest possible musical standards. A word of much-deserved commendation is due our organist, and every soprano, alto, tenor and bass whose loyalty and service are much appreciated.

A special commendation is hereby expressed to Miss Edith Moyer, who has just observed her 50th anniversary as organist, and active participant in the musical activities of this parish. Our sincerest congratulations and expressions of appreciation, Miss Moyer!

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The Young People's Fellowship
Miss Marian Nightlinger, President.

During 1946, the Sunday evening activity of our young people was a very enjoyable and encouraging aspect of our parish life. Programs of worship, study, fellowship and service were carried on by our small but enthusiastic group. During Lent, a series of meditations were presented by the Rector on "The Body of Christ". At other times, recreation and refreshments were the concluding portion of our meetings.

We seriously lack a sufficient number of our own young people of high school age. Until this existing situation is overcome by the passage of time or the arrival of new members from outside sources, the program will be limited in scope. We look forward to the time when more elaborate plans can be undertaken.

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Boy Scouts, Troop #334

Our parish is privileged to possess one of the outstanding troops of Boy Scouts in this district, and our troop committee is one of the most active groups in this area. Mr. William Griffiths, recently confirmed, is the Scoutmaster, and a large group of boys participate in the meetings, outings, etc. We would encourage any boy of 12 years of age or older to attend a Tuesday evening meeting, and to enter the fine program that is provided by scouting.

We are still in the peculiar position of sponsoring a troop, but not having a single boy from St. Alban's as a member. We hope that this situation will be eliminated during 1947. Mr. George Snyder is our church's official representative on the Troop Committee.

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Girl Scouts, Troop #47

After several years of progress and development, the Troop suffered a serious set-back in the loss of both of its leaders, and inability to find replacements. The failure of the Troop Committee to function made the situation more difficult. A large number of girls (many of them from St. Alban's), were eager to carry on the program of scouting. Leadership has now been procured, and a reorganization of the Committee will soon take place. Renewal of full activity is anticipated soon. Girls who are interested are invited to come to meetings on Thursdays, at 7:30 p.m.

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The Servers' Club

The faithfulness and dependability of our five Altar Boys has been of great satisfaction to the Rector. Their reverence and efficiency during the services has been frequently observed by the congregation. Scheduled on a monthly basis, and subject to call for special occasions, the Altar Boys provide assistance to the Rector in many ways. Other interested young men are requested to consult the Rector; opportunities to serve at the Altar await any boy who is interested in this activity. We need additional crucifiers, acolytes, and servers.

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The Building Fund
Mr. A. R. Bechtel, Chairman

July 4, 1945, marked the official beginning of the first stage of our program for the erection of a much-needed addition to our parish house, namely - the raising of funds. During 1945, $1,433.35 was raised; during 1946 and the first three months of 1947, the fund was increased to the present amount of $3,696.32. The goal of $2,000 per year has so far been achieved and we hope to see it maintained. The Pence Boxes now in use have helped considerably, and we suggest that more persons make special contributions and include this Fund in the writing of their wills. A bequest of money for this purpose will provide a memorial that will be an occasion of Thanksgiving for many years to come. We want this new building erected and paid for by our 100th Anniversary in 1959.

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The Honor Roll

The final arrangement of our Honor Roll of men in service during World War II numbers 59 names. Two of these persons gave their lives in the service of their country:

Norman J. Kershner
Frank W. Van Loon

None of the others suffered permanent injuries or disability. We earnestly hope that more of these men will be taking an active part in the services and activities of the church. As soldiers of Christ, we have been members of The Christian Army for many years. Loyalty and obedience to Christ are demonstrated by our participation in the life of the church. Let us serve our Leader and Lord with courage and sacrificial devotion.

A permanent Honor Roll will be dedicated at a very impressive service on Sunday evening, April 20th, at 8 P.M. Our Honor Roll members will be our honored guests for this occasion.

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The Woman's Auxiliary Council
Mrs. Alvion P. Mosier, President.

Activities not limited to any one particular parish organization are sponsored and directed by the W.A.C. The supper at the congregational meeting on April 22, 1946, was served to 85 persons by the Council and members of related groups. In June, Mrs. Edgar Jones, a regular delegate to our Convocational Meetings, directed our booth at the Convocation of Germantown's annual Garden Party. The "Baby Table" earned $70.00 for missionary work in this part of our Diocese. In September 10 workers were provided to assist Mrs. Ruth H. Bechtel at the luncheon and supper of the annual bazaar of the Chapel of the Hard of Hearing in St. Stephen's Parish House. Our own annual bazaar and supper earned $454.47 for the General Expenses of the Church.

The Council is composed of representatives of most of our parish organizations. Its program is dependent upon the support and cooperation of its member groups. The Council is not a parish organization, but a Board of Control which supervises and correlates the activities of the various parish organizations.

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The Endowment Fund

The accumulation of an invested trust fund, the income from which helps to defray the regular or designated expenses of the parish is always a slow process, especially in a small parish with families of moderate means. However, it is not impossible for most anyone to remember their church to some extent in the writing of a will. The newspapers often report estates sequestered by the State for lack of legal heirs or for disposition by will. Your church, your spiritual mother, is most worthy of thoughtful remembrance in your last hour on earth.

A worthy suggestion is made that instead of the large expense of flowers at the time of death, family and friends be requested to make a memorial gift to the Endowment Fund of your church. Appropriate recognition will be given to such gifts and perpetual benefits will accrue to the place where you gained and sustained your life in Christ while on earth.

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SOME 1947 DATES OF IMPORTANCE
(All Parishioners please note and attend)

Easter Monday, April 7th	Congregational Meeting
Wednesday, April 16th	"Burke's Broadcasters" for benefit of 4th of July Parade and Picnic Fund
Sunday, April 20th, 8 P.M.	Dedication of Honor Rolls for Parish Veterans, World War I and II
Monday, May 5th	Opening of 163rd Diocesan Convention
Sunday, May 18th	Diocesan Presentation of Lenten Offering, Episcopal Academy
Tuesday, June 3rd	Garden Party, Convocation of Germantown
Wednesday, June 18th	Special Program, St. Alban's Day Observance.
Sunday, June 22nd	The Feast of St. Alban, Martyr. Special Services to be arranged.
June 27th to July 3rd	Diocesan Summer Conference For Young People of High School Age
Friday, July 4th	Annual Parade and Picnic at usual location, end of Livesey Lane.

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